



PATENT

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June 12, 2006  
Date

Carolyn L. Ross  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.	: 09/916,164	Confirmation No.	: 9145
Applicants	: Gundu M. Sabde and Whonchee Lee		
Filed	: July 25, 2001	Attorney Docket No.:	500163.05
Art Unit	: 1763	Customer No.	: 27,076
Examiner	: Sylvia MacArthur		
Title	: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR PLANARIZING MICROELECTRONIC SUBSTRATE ASSEMBLIES		

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Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS**  
**FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

In the Examiner's reasons for allowance, she states each independent claim is allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest a particular element or elements recited in each of the claims. While applicant agrees with the Examiner's indication that the prior art does not teach or disclose the particular elements cited by the Examiner, the undersigned would like to point out that each claim includes a combination of elements and it is the recited

combination, which includes the elements cited by the Examiner, that is not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

While the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:

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